

## Case 2974

***Stilpon* Loew, 1859 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed conservation**

Jeffrey M. Cumming

Biological Resources Division, Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, C.E.F., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6, Canada

Neal L. Evenhuis

J. Linsley Gressitt Center for Research in Entomology, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, U.S.A.

**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is the conservation of the generic name *Stilpon* Loew, 1859 for a widely distributed genus of flies placed in the EMPIDIDAE or HYBOTIDAE. The senior subjective synonym *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830 is available, but it has only once been listed as a valid name and its suppression is proposed.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; *Agatachys*; *Stilpon*.

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1. Meigen (1830, p. 343) described as new the empidoid species *Tachydromia celeripes*, based on several specimens which he stated he had received from Wilhelm von Winthem under the manuscript name *Agatachys flavipes*. Because in his treatment of *Tachydromia* the previously unpublished name *A. flavipes* was only mentioned by Meigen as a synonym of *T. celeripes*, the genus-group name *Agatachys* had no standing in zoological nomenclature until it was many years later listed (see para. 3 below) as the valid name of a taxon (Article 11e of the Code).

2. Loew (1859, p. 35) proposed the genus-group name *Stilpon* for two species, *Tachydromia graminum* Fallén, 1815 (p. 15) and *Drapetis hmata* Walker, 1851 (p. 136); in 1864 Loew (p. 5) designated *T. graminum* as the type species of *Stilpon*. The genus currently (see Cumming & Cooper, 1992, p. 956) contains some 25 species from the Nearctic, Palearctic, Afrotropical and Oriental Regions, and a fossil specimen is known from Dominican amber (Evenhuis, 1994, p. 355).

3. Coquillett (1910) listed the names of most genus-group taxa of North American Diptera and proposed type species for those taxa which had not previously been typified. In this work *Stilpon* was treated (p. 504) as the junior synonym of *Agatachys*, which was listed as the valid name; under Article 11e of the Code *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830 is thus deemed to be an available name. *Tachydromia celeripes* Meigen, 1830 is the type species of *Agatachys* by monotypy (Article 67(l) of the Code).

4. *Agatachys* and *Stilpon* are subjective synonyms, and their respective type species (*T. celeripes* and *T. graminum*) have been synonymized (Collin, 1961, p. 55).

5. Since its listing by Coquillett (1910) *Agatachys* has never again been treated as valid, but *Stilpon* has been used in the EMPIDIDAE or HYBOTIDAE by numerous authors. In addition to those cited here, a list of 12 representative works published between 1961 and 1989 has been given to the Commission Secretariat. Replacement of *Stilpon*

Loew, 1859 by *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830 would result in many new combinations and would cause undue confusion in the nomenclature of the EMPIDOIDEA; it would offer no compensating advantage.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Stilpon* Loew, 1859 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Loew (1864) *Tachydromia graminum* Fallén, 1815;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *graminum* Fallén, 1815, as published in the binomen *Tachydromia graminum* (specific name of the type species of *Stilpon* Loew, 1859);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Agatachys* Meigen, 1830, as suppressed in (1) above.

## References

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